



Security Council

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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3881st meeting of the Security Council, held on 14 May 1998, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The responsibility of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council strongly deplores the three underground nuclear tests that India conducted on 11 May 1998, and the two further tests conducted on 13 May 1998 despite overwhelming international concern and protests. The Council strongly urges India to refrain from any further tests. It is of the view that such testing is contrary to the de facto moratorium on the testing of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and to global efforts towards nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. The Council also expresses its concern at the effects of this development on peace and stability in the region.

"The Security Council affirms the crucial importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The Council appeals to India, and all other States which have not yet done so, to become parties to the NPT, and to the CTBT without delay and without conditions. The Council also encourages India to participate, in a positive spirit, in the proposed negotiations with other States for a fissile material cut-off treaty in Geneva with a view to reaching early agreement.

"With a view to preventing an escalation in the arms race, in particular with regard to nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, and to preserving peace in the region, the Security Council urges States to exercise maximum restraint. The Council underlines that the sources of tension in South Asia should only be resolved through dialogue and not by military build-up.

"The Security Council reiterates the statement by its President on 31 January 1992 (S/23500) which stated, *inter alia*, that the proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction constitutes a threat to international peace and security."
